

**Course:** SM 401 T NT Sports Law and Ethics  
**Credit:** 3 credit hours  
**Semester:** Spring 2026  
**Time:** Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:20  
**Instructor:** Tressa Barnes  
**Contact Info:** [tressa.barnes@calvary.edu](mailto:tressa.barnes@calvary.edu)  
**Text between 8am – 6pm 816-820-5235**

***This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.***

## I. DESCRIPTION

This course provides an extensive overview of legal principles and ethical issues in sport. This course introduces the different fields of law and issues (Federal Amendment, torts, contracts, labor relations) as they relate to sport. Furthermore, this course is designed to help future sport administrators develop an ethical decision-making process based on biblical principles. (Prerequisite: BU200)

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Develop an understanding of legal terms used throughout case studies and literature.  
(Program Learning Objectives: 1)  
(Assignment: 1, 7, 9)
2. Develop personal and administration values in sport settings from a biblical perspective.  
(Program Learning Objectives: 1 and 4)  
(Assignments: 2, 3, 7,8)
3. Develop the ability to think critically about legal and ethical issues in sport. Be able to distinguish between right and wrong decisions.  
(Program Learning Objectives: 1 and 2)  
(Assignments: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
4. Identify potential ethical dilemmas facing sport participants and sport administrators.  
(Program Learning Objectives: 2)  
(Assignments: 3,4, 7, 8, 9)
5. Identify the framework for risk management in a coaches setting and develop

a philosophy that creates safety instead of harm for participants.  
(Program Learning Objectives: 3 and 4)  
(Assignments: 2, 3,4, 7, 8)

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Know the steps in a lawsuit and the responsibilities and obligations of the parties: plaintiffs, defendants, judges, and others.  
(PLO: 1,2,4,5)  
(Assignments B,C,D )
2. Analyze, distinguish, and apply the legal and ethical concepts of sport to respond to challenges commonly encountered in the arenas of sport and physical activity.  
(PLO: 4,5 )  
(Assignments A,B,C,D )
3. Know tort law, including negligence, intentional torts, products and strict liability.  
(PLO: 1,4,5 )  
(Assignments A,B,C,D )
4. Understand the rights and responsibilities of sport administration professionals in relation to professional ethics.  
(PLO:1,2,3 )  
(Assignments A,B,C,D )
5. Understand Constitutional laws (Amendments, Title IX, and ADA) and the legal analyses used by the courts in civil rights decisions.  
(PLO: 1,2,4,5)  
(Assignments A,B,C,D)
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of the study of ethics and sport and the biblical model.  
(PLO: 1,2,3 )  
(Assignments A,B,C,D )

**III. MATERIALS**

- A. BIBLE** - The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

**B. Textbooks**

Champion, W. T. (2005). Introduction to Sport Law. New York: Aspen Publishers.

ISBN-10: 1450457002. 50.67 (Amazon)

Pitmann, A., Spengler, J., Young, S. (2016). Case Studies in Sport Law. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics  
ISBN- 9781492526117. 50.00 (Amazon)

Morgan, W., Meier, K., & Schneider, A. (3<sup>rd</sup> Eds.) (2017). Ethics in sport. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics  
ISBN – 10: 9781492556763. 50.00 (Amazon)

#### **IV. REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A. Discussion Questions**

The student will answer discussion every other week depending on the topic. They will comment on two other classmates' views concerning the questions.

##### **Assessment and Debates**

Daily assessments will be given in class. Each student will complete each debate and assessment.

##### **Reading and Response**

The student will read the assigned chapters for Introduction to Sport Law. They will answer the discussion questions for the assigned chapters.

The student will read assigned case studies in the book, Case Studies in Sport Law. They will write a review of each case study assigned (8 case studies) in the book.

The student will read the book Ethics in Sport and answer the discussion questions assigned for each chapter.

##### **B. Writing**

1. The student will find and define ethical and legal terms.
2. The students will be debating in class concerning ethical issues in sport. This section will primarily target the current issues of today using good research and bible based foundations.
3. All class papers must follow the APA style according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition.

##### **C. Exams**

1. 5 Quizzes will be given in class.. Therefore you must bring your computer to class. We will end our class time with a quiz every other week.

**V. METHODS**

**A. Lectures, Textbook Reading, Presentations, Debates, Exams, Additional Required Reading or Research, etc.**

**B. Grading**

1. Definition of Terms	50pts
2. Assessment Labs	10pts each (80pts)
3. Presentations	50pts (100each)
4. Case Studies	25pts each (200pts)
5. Reading Chapters	10pts each (80pts)
6. Chapter Questions	10pts each (80pts)
7. Discussion Question	10pts each (80pts)
8. Debate Ethics	25pts each (50pts)
9. 4 Quizzes	100pts each (200pts)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000pts</b>

**VI. Academic Statements:**

Behavior and Respect in Class

1. There will be participation points granted for both on-campus and online students.
  2. All cell phones/Iwatches must be put on the tables with their face down. You will be allowed to check every 30 to 40 minutes with your 5 minute break. When the break is up, you will be asked to put your phone back on the table.
  3. Laptops should be used to take notes in class and NOT to use for doing other homework or playing games.
  4. Earbuds are not allowed to be worn in class. Those who have them in will be asked to remove them before the start of class.
  5. One percentage point per day will be taken off for late assignments. You must submit all assignments by the end of the class to get credit.
  6. Those who choose to fall asleep in class will be asked to leave the class and the Student Deans and your coach will be notified of your negligence.
  7. You must participate with a professional attitude in class. If you are upset prior to class please text me and let me know. You will be expected to still participate but the lack of enthusiasm will be understandable.
  8. You are allowed 2 excused absences, but it CANNOT be when you are supposed to present at a debate.
- Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

- Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
- The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.